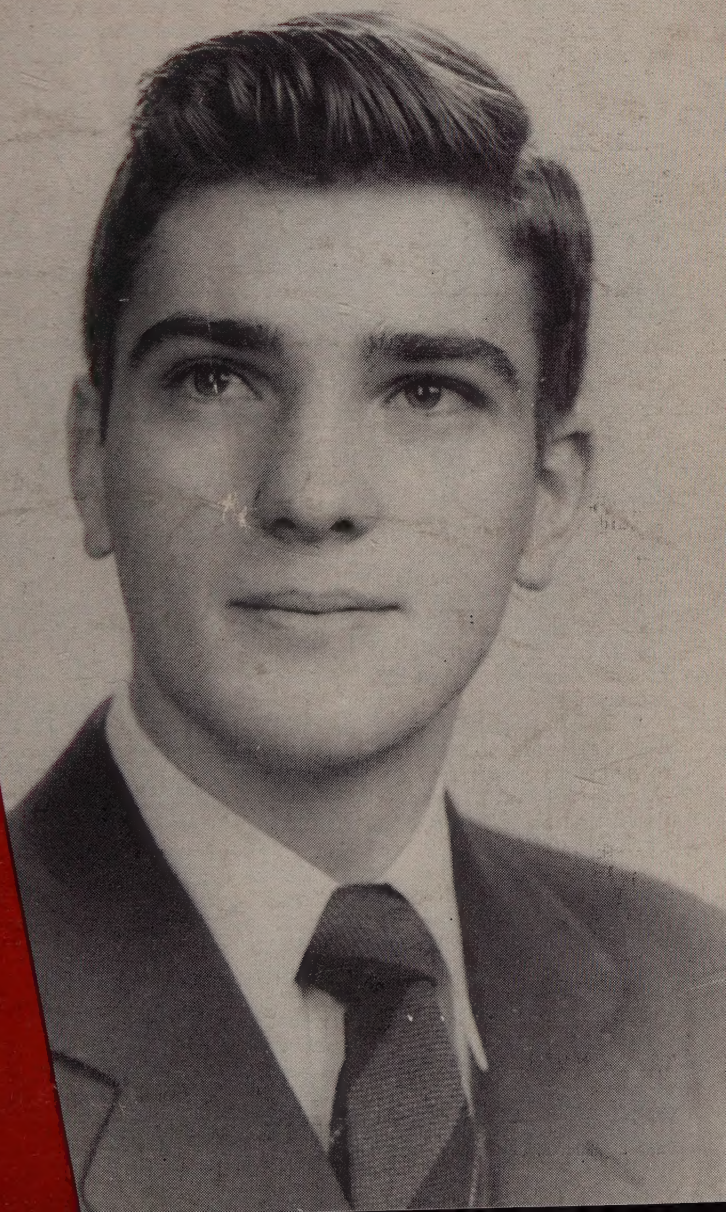


Concern



t. 1953

No. 2

Cover Photo

New president of the National Conference of Methodist Youth is Dick Thompson of Springfield, Mo. At 18 Dick is a senior at Southwest Missouri State College and is not quite certain whether the next few years of study will be spent in a medical school or a school of theology.

Complete reports of the National Conference meeting, August 23-28, at which national officers were elected, are given in this issue of CONCERN.

The delegates cut out a big job for themselves, the MYF and the MSM, for the coming year.

Last Words

From both Projects Secretaries of the NCMY (see the story of office changes on page 8), excerpts from reports to the opening NCMY session.

Why does the National Conference exist today? Here are four reasons. There are others.

1. The National Conference of Methodist Youth provides a voice for youth on the policy making level of the church, in its boards, its agencies, its interboard commissions . . . The National Conference can voice its opinions and give help to the program of the church.

2. The National Conference of Methodist Youth provides a framework in which youth can pioneer in getting things started and done that the church's agencies are not yet set up to do, or cannot do because of limitations in time, money, responsibilities, or relationships.

3. The National Conference of Methodist Youth gives youth an opportunity to speak to youth and adults of their church and nation about the Church itself, and about the great issues of the Christian faith.

4. The National Conference of Methodist Youth provides a foundation on which could be built our part of a world wide movement of Christian youth, dedicated to the tasks their faith sets for them.

Great movements will not come through boards or agencies alone . . . The NCMY is an organization of young people, not just an organization for them. It exists for the exchange of

ideas through which a movement could be born. Its representatives and members are in a position to sift the ideas back out across a great church to millions of young people, in the churches and in their homes. These ideas might ferment and grow into a movement that could sweep across the globe.

These are four things which make the National Conference of Methodist Youth unique in the church. They make it necessary. And at the same time they present a challenge, which it can never adequately meet, but to which the organization has been dedicated nearly a decade and a half.

Roger Burgess

* * *

"We must find some basic thoughts and action points and throw most of our energy and time into the battle around those points . . . in my opinion five specific ones:

We must learn to pray and we must make prayer the basis for our fellowship and work.

It is our business to give our undivided attention to God in confidence, trust that He will show us what to do . . . Basically our program for the next several years must be one of establishing prayer fellowships. As quickly as possible, striving through all our projects and speaking we must make o

(Continued on Page 15)

Concern

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Concern is published every other week by the National Conference of Methodist Youth, P. O. Box 871, Nashville 2, Tenn. Richard Thompson, president; Jeff Campbell, vice president; Jean Stevenson, recording secretary; Kenneth Thompson, Jr., financial secretary.

The editorial policy of Concern as set by the National Conference of Methodist Youth is the Social Creed of The Methodist Church, adopted by the General Conference and printed in The Discipline.



Entered as second class matter September 1945, at the post office at Nashville, Tennessee, under the Act of March 2, 1879. Subscription price: one year, \$1; renewal, \$1; foreign \$1.50.

NCMY moves ahead with seventeenth annual meeting

August 28 marked the end of the seventeenth annual meeting of the National Conference of Methodist Youth, perhaps the most significant meeting of the group in many years. As many delegates started home that day, and others started to work in a Christian Witness Mission, everyone knew they had been through a fast-moving, action-packed and thoroughly worthwhile week.

Meeting on the lovely hillside campus of National College for Christian Workers in Kansas City, Mo., nearly 100 youth and student leaders and staff and field representatives took on no less an assignment than developing "a Christian concern for engaging the whole of society under the love of God and his love."

To make headway toward such a high goal, delegates rose early, prayed often, and worked long in committees and general sessions.

By the week's end the conference had elected an almost entirely new slate of officers, expressed its convictions on several vital contemporary issues, and renewed stock of its program for the years ahead. Plans were made for three more youth or student gatherings within the next two years, plus UN-shington seminars, and carefully-thought-through program emphases for all groups.

This issue of CONCERN gives a full report on the meeting. Read through it for ideas and suggestions to help you in your work. File this issue for future reference.

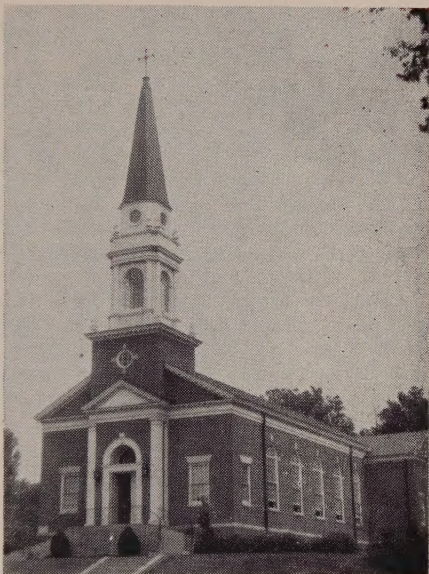
The 1952 *Discipline* of The Methodist Church says some of the functions of the National Conference of Methodist Youth are these:

- to provide for the free expression of the voice of Methodist youth.
- to provide for fellowship of Methodist youth and students from the entire church.

- to select projects of particular interest to youth which shall be promoted and supported by them.

- to give youth free opportunity to participate creatively in planning the church's program, by making recommendations to all the boards

NEWS



At Truman Boulevard and Van Brunt road in Kansas City stands the campus of National College for Christian Workers, where the NCMY met the last week in August. Highlighting the campus is the new Anna S. Kresge chapel, where conference delegates worshipped each day.

and agencies of the church, and through the youth members of the general boards and other agencies, and through fellowship with the staff members of these boards and agencies.

Organization Is Simple

Set up to be democratic, the National Conference at first seems to be a complicated thing, but its organization is simple and easy to understand. A look at the program of the 1953 meeting will explain it all.

Late in the day Friday, August 21, National College opened its doors to welcome students and staff who began arriving for the National Methodist Student Commission meeting. By Saturday morning 40 MSM leaders were on hand and the meeting began as scheduled. The leaders were mostly presidents of state or similar area or-

ganizations of the Methodist Student Movement, or they were adult directors of the MSM, national staff, or specially-invited visitors.

The student commission met four days, then joined MYF representatives in the total National Conference.

The National Methodist Youth Fellowship Commission representatives arrived at National College on Sunday, began meeting Monday morning. Over 100 voting members were presidents of general boards and agencies. The commission includes adult staff people and field workers such as conference directors of youth work.

After the commissions had met and worked on business of their own, they all met as the National Conference, uniting both youth and student streams of organization on the national level of the church.

Worship Begins Each Day

Source of much of the spiritual motivation for the work of the week was the series of morning chapel addresses by Dr. Harry Denman, executive secretary of the Board of Evangelism. In hard-hitting, down-to-earth fashion, Dr. Denman kept spot-lighting the textual theme, "Now if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his." (Romans 8:9) Through Bible-based, experience-centered messages, Dr. Denman outlined the Master's spirit toward God, persons, things, time and death.

Following the chapel talks, small groups of NCMY people met under trees and on steps of college buildings for Bible study, discussion and prayer.

The first official meeting of the whole group was Sunday night, August 23. President Jameson Jones called the meeting to order, then led an orientation period on the "why" of the meeting. Three moving addresses lifted the concerns of the meeting beyond national boundaries to the whole world. Projects Secretary George Harper reported on the Third World Conference of Christian Youth which he and Jones attended in India last December, and H. D. Bollinger, secretary of the department of college and university religious life, and Roger Ortmayer, editor of *motive*, spoke on their globe-circling trips to attend World's Student Christian Federation conferences in India.

Among many guests and visitors at the conference were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Mildon of London, representing



Dr. Harry Denman

... spoke each morning ...

the British youth movement. The Methodist Board of Missions sent Miss Clarice Shipstone of Lucknow, India, and Chester Yang of Peking, China, to share in the meeting. Miss Amber Van formerly missionary to China, and I. Julius S. Scott, Jr., both former members of the National Conference, were special representatives of the mission board.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service, which sponsors National College itself, played hosts at afternoon teas for the delegates.

National Conference elects new slate of officers

A big item of business at Kansas City was the election of officers to head the National Conference for the next two years.

Elected president was Richard Thompson of Springfield, Mo., an 18-year-old senior at Southwest Missouri State College.

Jeff Campbell, 22, who came to the National Conference last year as president of the North Texas Conference MYF and then was elected to the council, this year was named vice president of the National Conference. His home is Dallas, and he is a student at Perkins School of Theology.

New recording secretary is Jean

venson, 20, of Holbrook, Mass., a
or at Bridgewater (Mass.) State
lege and president of the New Eng-
l Methodist Student Movement.

enneth Thompson, Jr., 19, of Wil-
te, Ill. and a junior at Yale Uni-
sity, was re-elected financial secre-
y.

The NCMY elected Judy Lepard of
nd Rapids, Mich., as a youth mem-
of the Board of World Peace for
years. Ken Thompson continues as
outh member for another year.

Student Commission Elects

esides the four general officers, the
uncil of the NCMY includes six of-
rs of the student commission and
officers of the youth commission,
s adult staff advisers. Elected chair-
n of the student commission was
erge Goodman of Corvallis, Ore.,
dent in Oregon State College. Two
dent officers continue another year:
etta Moore, Philander Smith Col-
e, Little Rock, Ark., and L. T. Hath-
ay, Jr., entering student at Boston
iversity School of Theology.

New student council members are
ry Jane Hitchcock, Centenary Col-
e, Shreveport, La., Paul Bosley,
thwestern University, Evanston,
and William Gaiser of Franklin,
Grove City College student.

New chairman of the National
thodist Youth Fellowship Commis-
n is Robert Trost of Redondo Beach,
if., and a senior at UCLA. After
long and spirited discussion, the
th commission voted to give its of-
rs titles of program area chairmen.
assigned Charles Boyles and Margy

New general officers
the NCMY pause to
e for the photogra-
r. They are Jean
venson, Richard
mpson, Jeff Camp-
and Ken Thompson.
e Thompsons are not

o: Methodist Information

Horner, who have another year to
serve, to be chairmen of Christian fel-
lowship and outreach, respectively.

Elected to a one year term as chair-
man of Christian faith is Molly
O'Steen, president of the North Ala-
bama Conference MYF, Tuscaloosa,
Ala. To serve two years are Barbara
Eskew of Waco, Tex., witness chair-
man, and Barbara Ricks, president
of the Washington (D.C.) Conference
MYF and a senior at Howard Univer-
sity, citizenship chairman.

Special Representatives Named

Both commissions named some spec-
ial delegates to various meetings.
Chosen to attend the general council
of the United Christian Youth Move-
ment (full report next issue) were Bob
Trost, Richard Thompson, Barbara
Ricks, Charles Boyles and Harold W.
Ewing.

Chosen to represent the Methodist
Student Movement to the United Stu-
dent Christian Council were Robert
Gebhart, Coral Gables, Fla., Mary Anne
Meadows, Cochran, Ga., and B. J.
Stiles, Ft. Worth, Tex. William Gaiser
was elected representative to the Stu-
dent Volunteer Movement and Ed
White of Stillwater, Okla. was elected
to fill an unexpired term as USCC
delegate.

The new council will hold its mid-
winter meeting January 2-4 at Na-
tional College in Kansas City. Most of
the council will attend the National
Methodist Student Conference in Law-
rence, Kans., December 28-January 2,
then will stay over to discuss current
NCMY business and to make plans for
future projects.



National Conference speaks its mind

Each year the National Conference expresses its youth opinion on important issues. All 1953 resolutions followed this introductory paragraph:

The Christian concern for bringing the whole of society under the rule of God and His love demands that we state and clarify our position on "contemporary issues, matters of church policy, and the great concerns of the Christian faith!" (Quotation from the NCMY constitution.)

It was agreed that statements made by previous National Conferences would still be in effect if their subjects were not dealt with by the last meeting.

On war and peace

◆ We believe that Christianity and war are inherently incompatible. Christianity affirms that the law of God is the ultimate fact to which man is responsible. War regards the law of the biggest battalions as the final authority (to which man is responsible). Christianity upholds the dignity of human personality. War reduces human personality to an instrument of equivocating national policies.

We further believe that Christianity implies a channeling of international conflicts into more constructive pursuits than global war. One of the distinctive elements of Christianity is the insistence both on the possibility and on the necessity of world order and peace.

We therefore hold that it is the Christian's obligation to oppose the way of war and to identify himself with those forces which truly seek peace. We feel that the particular positions which Christians may take in regard to participation in war vary according to the dictates of conscience, but we, nonetheless, assert that all Christians must demonstrate their opposition to war and work for the establishment of lasting peace that respects the basic rights and freedoms of men and enables all men to live in a Christian community.

On conscientious decisions

◆ The National Conference of Methodist Youth affirms that both conscientious participation in and con-

scientious objection to war may be natural outgrowths of the Christian faith. Christian conscience is a matter between God and man. A major tenet of the Christian faith is a respect for the individual and the individual's personal conscience. Within our fellowship are all who believe in Christ and strive to do His will for their lives. While we believe that we should respect the civil authority of our land, we continue to hold in fellowship and love all those whose religious convictions lead them to non-cooperation.

On UMT

◆ The National Conference opposes in principle any type of universal military training, but does not oppose any fair appraisal or inquiry into the matter.

On ROTC

◆ The National Conference suggests to individual college campuses that they oppose ROTC units in any form on Methodist college campuses. We take our stand for the following reasons:

a. We hold the principle of separation of Church and state.

b. We believe that the church college has a unique function to perform, and that the authorization of military training is not in keeping with that function.

We further oppose compulsory ROTC on any educational level.

On alcoholic beverages

◆ The National Conference of Methodist Youth affirms the traditional Methodist stand that has been maintained continually against all uses of alcoholic beverages, and we urge continued cooperation with the Board of Temperance, Allied Youth, and other groups that are in opposition to this menace.

It is the responsibility of every Methodist youth and student organization to present a program that challenges youth to accept no compromise in the fight against beverage alcohol.

We strongly recommend that radio and television programs, newspapers and periodicals secure advertising whose products will have a wholesome influence on community life.

On investigations, freedom

believing that our God is a God of truth, we of the National Conference of Methodist Youth affirm our faith in the principle of academic freedom in an unprejudiced search for truth and are opposed to any interference with freedom of thought and expression.

We believe in the right of the government by due process of law to discover and bring to light subversive elements which threaten individual freedom.

We commend one of the great Christian leaders of our time, Bishop Genevieve Oxnam, for his courageous testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

We deplore the use of unevaluated opinion and the logic of ex post facto membership in organizations as a basis for judgement of subversive activity. We heartily urge that Methodists everywhere, following the example of Bishop Oxnam, oppose the methods of the Congressional investigations involving the practices of guilt by association and the doctrine of "guilty until proven innocent" which stifle individual liberties.

On the Central Jurisdiction

We of the National Conference heartily disapprove the existence of the Central Jurisdiction. We heartily commend the action of the General Conference of 1952 that enabled Central Jurisdiction churches to join conferences of other jurisdictions. We feel every step toward such assimilation should be taken and that we should insist on to our goal of interracial churches, so that segregation will cease in our church and the church will be enabled to function as a complete Christian fellowship.

On recruiting Missionaries

Our church is falling far short of training the needed personnel to carry on the missionary enterprise both at home and abroad. Realizing our responsibility to help provide this personnel, we make the following recommendations:

That information regarding the needs and challenges of church-related vocations be frequently and effectively presented to youth and students.

b. That interested persons should be encouraged to contact:

- (1) various boards of the church,
- (2) conference commissions on Christian vocations.
- (3) Woman's Society of Christian Service student and youth secretaries, and
- (4) personnel agencies of the church.

On interdenominational cooperation

◆ Whereas we believe that we, as Methodists, are one member body in the universal Church of Christ, we encourage continued support and representation in the United Student Christian Council (USCC), the United Christian Youth Movement (UCYM), and the Student Volunteer Movement (SVM). We also urge that we, as individuals and local groups, work in an ecumenical spirit using every opportunity to work and plan with other denominations.

On international aid

We have a Christian commitment to aid the suffering areas of the world in their economic plights, not only by donations of food, but also by sending agricultural and technical experts such as is done through the Point Four (U.S.) and Technical Assistance (U.N.) programs, in the hope that these countries may regain their own economic stability.

We commend the establishment of a truce in Korea but recognize its insufficiency, feeling that ultimately only through unification of Korea under a government of the people's own choosing and the withdrawal of all foreign military influences can the people of Korea regain their true identity and independence. Our stand in regard to the unification of Germany and Austria respectively is the same as our stand on Korean unification.

Realizing that the United Nations has done a great deal of progressive and beneficial work, we encourage increased support of the organization with the hope that through the U. N. and its related agencies the world will ultimately be unified into a cooperative community.

On national immigration policies

We recommend that where necessary the Department of State of the United States exercise its power under the

McCarran Act to permit all delegates of the Christian churches in any country to enter the United States to attend the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Evanston, Ill. in August of 1954.

We affirm that the immigration policies of our country should be founded on the principles of Christian love and universal brotherhood; therefore, we recommend to Congress that it revise the immigration laws of the country in the light of the recommendations of the President's Commission on Immigration and Naturalization.

Convocation set for 1955 at Purdue

Remembering the 1951 National Convocation of Methodist Youth at Purdue University, the NCMY's committee on the convocation recommended the same place, same size, same week in the year. The NCMY enthusiastically adopted the report.

So the next mass meeting of youth and students will be August 26-30, 1955, at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, if the university is willing to entertain the convocation again. About 5,000 people will attend.

The Convocation will bring youth and students together in Christian fellowship, provide inspiration and training for them, and climax the current Youth Emphasis program.

One new feature: a travel pool, as a small step toward equalizing delegates' expenses.

UN-Washington seminars planned for February

Plans are now under way for two United Nations-Washington seminars to be held in February.

The annual Methodist Student Movement seminar will be held February 14-20 with delegates coming from local campus groups. Registration and program information will be available from Miss Dorothy Nyland, 150 Fifth Ave., New York 11.

The National Conference voted to sponsor a seminar for youth and students the following week, February 21-27. Purpose of the seminars is to create an awareness of current social, political and economic issues of national and

international scope, to examine the possible solutions to problems in the light of the Christian gospel, and to help increase concern for these issues among Methodist youth and students.

The NCMY seminar will center on four specific issues: freedom, militarization, economic assistance, and the relation of the United States to the United Nations.

Registration and program information for the NCMY seminar will be available from the National Conference office, P. O. Box 871, Nashville 2, Tenn.

Committees work on many projects

One of the main features of an NCMY meeting is a round of committee meetings. The following high points from reports outline NCMY projects and give suggestion for local action.

On Alcohol and Moral Issues

The NCMY commended the Board of Education and the Board of Temperance for the 1953 youth school of alcohol studies and recommended more schools on national, regional and local levels.

All local MYFs should cooperate with the Woman's Society of Christian Service in its current study on alcohol and Christian responsibility.

The NCMY urged Methodist youth stand against liquor advertising in periodicals, television and radio; writing letters of protest and commendation to appropriate groups and agencies. MYF and MSM groups should write congressmen to protest the proposed reduction in tax on alcoholic beverages.

Every local group should cooperate in the observance of Commitment Day December 6 this year.

On Group Retreats

One committee recommended two kinds of retreats for MYF and MSM groups: peace retreats and spiritual life retreats. Peace retreats give youth people a total world picture and arouse their interest in world affairs. Retreats help youth see the Christian role in world affairs through a study of the teachings of Jesus. The NCMY suggested that every annual conference MYF and state MSM consider holding a peace retreat this year.

Because of the rushed lives that

live in the present world situation and because of the great need for spiritual power to meet the ever pressing obligations, the NCMY voted to continue its promotion of spiritual life retreats, but hoped that major responsibility for retreats would be carried by conference MYF and state MSM coun-

Christian Witness Missions

The National Conference was pleased with reports on Christian Witness Missions and the beginnings of the special "Summer of Service" project in evangelism. (The next issue of CONCERN will carry full reports on this work.)

Outreach Projects Talked

Again the NCMY spent much time talking about youth service overseas and other projects in Christian outreach. Special committees will work with the Board of Missions staff and with representatives of other agencies to put work projects in various countries overseas and in certain key areas in the United States. Main project to be pushed continuously: the Methodist Youth Fund for MYF groups and the Methodist Student Fellowship Fund for student groups.

Ministry to Men in Service

Concerned that so many local churches are losing contact with their youth in military service, and the tendency of youth in service to lower their moral standards while away from home, the NCMY made some specific suggestions about the ministry of the church to youth in service. One of the most effective tools is the armed services kit, available from the Service Department, Box 871, Nashville. Churches located

near military installations have great responsibilities for helping service personnel. A pamphlet available from the Service Department, "The Church Serves Its Men in the Armed Services," has many practical suggestions.

One NCMY committee worked on many specific suggestions for editors of various publications for youth and students.

Student commission starts early, works late

A day ahead of the MYF delegates, the National Methodist Student Commission opened its meeting when chairman Jerry Gibson of South Bend, Ind., rapped the gavel and started a significant discussion on "Why do Christian students bother with missions?" The group emphasized the importance of placing Christ at the very center of mission work. A spirit of oneness within the Christian faith is vital to its being.

With students today being confronted by communism, humanism and secularism, the Christian student must give the challenge of Christian experience and faith. General program emphases of the MSM this year will center on examining and understanding the Christian faith, knowing the real nature of the student Christian movement and feeling a sense of oneness in Christ as students work together, understanding the new concept of the Christian mission as a personal responsibility to make Christ known on all frontiers, and the facing of our responsibility as Christian citizens.

Three NCMY delegates get together for chat on some report. They are Gay Little of the Southwest Missouri MYF, Jacob Bohannon of the Indian Mission MYF, and Jean Stevenson, New England MSM president.



Plans Set for Lawrence

Big item of business for the student commission was the National Methodist Student Conference to be held December 28-January 2 at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kans. with some 2,300 delegates attending. The conference will give students a sense of movement and purpose and through fellowship and experience common to all will bind Methodist students across the nation into a unified community.

Three study books have been prepared for the Lawrence conference: *Conscience of Culture*, *Christian Corrective*, and *Worship and the Arts*.

The student commission began plans for the 1954 regional Methodist student leadership conferences, suggesting as theme "Campus Confusion and the Christian Corrective."

The Methodist Student Fellowship Fund has become a vital part of the student movement. This year it observes its tenth anniversary.

Ecumenical relationships were high on the agenda of the commission. Last year the commission voted to support a proposal to bring the United Student Christian Council into the department of campus Christian life of the National Council of Churches, and the Methodist Student Movement will continue to support more recent proposals to bring this change into effect.

MYF commission works on Emphasis

The National Methodist Youth Fellowship Commission met to evaluate MYF programs and to plan emphases for the quadrennium. Major item was the Youth Emphasis, and second was a job begun at the Purdue planning conference which explored ways of implementing the concerns of youth as expressed in the five new program areas.

When Shelia Trapp Campbell, commission chairman, called the meeting to order, the youth and staff leaders were ready to work. A voluminous mass of specific suggestions flowed from two sets of committees as youth attempted to produce workable plans of action, study and worship in the Youth Emphasis—1954 Lenten emphasis, Christian faith; 1954 fall projects in Christian family life; 1955 Lenten emphasis on the church; 1955 fall pro-



Long business sessions were lifted in spirit by group singing and fellowship. Here Bert Lyle, four years recreation chairman, leads out in a lively song.

jects on missions, world peace and relief; and 1956 Lenten emphasis on the life of Jesus.

Committees called for study books on each of the Lenten emphases, increased use of radio and TV in making public the Youth Emphasis themes, increased use of spiritual life retreats and peace retreats, and "here's the way you do it" pamphlets for local churches.

The commission spent a day on the philosophy and scope of new program areas. One committee called for the extension of intercultural and interracial exchange of delegates in summer camps and institutes, the publication of a pamphlet on the Christian and labor, and for more workcamps and caravans in Indian reservations.

The youth section did a tremendous job. Committee reports have been directed and mailed to proper boards and agencies for consideration and action. Cooperative projects to be done with the MSM commission have been directed to staffs. The best job done by the commission was the education of new presidents that the real force of the Youth Emphasis and the new program areas resided with them and their conference leadership. They left Kansas City in that spirit.

—CHARLES BOYLES

The grassroots in action

At the meeting of the National Conference of Methodist Youth in Kansas City, the real "grassroots" of the MYF came together to plan the youth program for the MYF for the days ahead. It was truly reassuring to see your representatives from your MYF from 12 of the 48 states talking about ways to strengthen the Youth Emphasis and to arouse the churches to the importance of work among young people.

At the opening meeting of the National Methodist Youth Fellowship Commission, a panel discussion on the youth emphasis. It was heartening to hear the youth tell what was happening to make "Emphasis" a reality in the local churches. Planning conferences on area annual conference basis; special action in summer camps, assemblies, institutes; presentation in the sessions of the annual conferences; training conferences for adults who are working in the youth program in the local church; traveling fellowships visiting each local church—all with one purpose: to arouse the local church to let youth discover the will of God and live by it.

Time and again throughout the Commission meeting the group reaffirmed the fact that the Youth Emphasis is not a "campaign to be promoted." Whether it is a living movement among more than a million and a half youth in The Methodist Church in which every church needs to recognize responsibility and its opportunity. Throughout the meeting your representatives were laying plans for activities which all Methodist youth might experience during the months ahead and also making helpful suggestions for creative activities in the local church.

This was "grass roots" in action . . . democratic church giving expression to its concerns and interests in creative planning. The one fact which is emerging in the Youth Emphasis is that it is

a movement of young people—called for by youth, growing out of the needs of youth, planned by youth, and designed to help youth share in Christian experiences.

Looking ahead in the Youth Emphasis these are some of the activities which will engage the interest of the youth and adults in the local church: Fall 1953—Youth Evangelism projects in local churches; December 31, 1953—Watch night service; Lent, 1954—Study and action centering on Christian Faith; Fall, 1954—Action projects centering on Christian family life; Lent, 1955—Study and action centering on the Christian church; Summer, 1955—National Convocation of Methodist Youth, Purdue University; Fall, 1955—Action projects centering on missions, world



Ewing

peace and relief; Lent, 1956—Study and action centering on the life of Jesus.

The youth at Kansas City were eager to know what would happen to "their plans" after the meeting was over! This is an important question. The value of group planning depends upon the way in which the plans are carried out. There were many ideas and suggestions coming from the numerous small planning groups. These plans were turned over to the youth department staff to sift, organize, and prepare for use in the youth program in the days ahead.

Early this fall these plans will be taken to the youth Advisory Committee for further action. The Youth Advisory Committee is made up of six bishops, pastors and directors of Christian education from local churches, youth presidents, district superintendents, directors of youth work, executive secretaries and conference secretaries of youth work of the Woman's Society

of Christian Service, and representatives of the general boards of the church. This group will counsel on ways in which these plans, conceived and developed by the youth of the church, can be best advanced to the whole church.

In 40,000 Methodist churches as you work in the council of your MYF or serve on the commission on education, you can pick up these plans knowing that they have "emerged" out of the needs and concerns of typical Methodist youth representing you. In a real sense they are your plans. But they will not become YOUR plans until you in the local church do something about them! You can move from plans to reality in your church as together we seek to discover God's will and live by it.

—HAROLD W. EWING

A British View

On leadership and concern

To a visitor from England, who was privileged to be the guest of the National Conference of Methodist Youth, the most enduring impressions of the conference will be the quality and spirit of its youthful leadership and the social concern of the delegates in seeking to relate their faith to the needs of their country today.

Someone referred early in the week to the dangers of too much talking and not enough action in our highly organized church. This is a problem which we have to be constantly watching in England too. It was most encouraging, therefore, to see so many delegates remaining in Kansas City after the close of this conference to take part in a Christian witness mission in 20 churches in the city. All the discussions and resolutions were followed by this practical action by trained and dedicated youth, who are alive to the needs of their situation. Too many conferences end with resolutions and no action.

The interracial nature of Methodist youth activities was an impressive feature, as was the care with which dele-



Iva and Arthur Mildon

gates re-phrased the resolution commending the General Conference's action regarding churches of the Central Jurisdiction, so that it indicated their belief in complete equality between colored and white. It was good also to note the resolutions on academic freedom and on the entry of delegates to the Assembly of the World Council next year. The recent tendency to extend congressional investigations into the field of learning and the severe U. S. immigration restrictions have caused much misunderstanding in Britain and Europe.

Many of the delegates spoke in conversation of their desire to become full-time workers in the church or in specific social projects, and having heard of the great need for missionaries at home and abroad one realizes how necessary it is that the claims of these fields should be pressed home. But could not the National Conference of Methodist Youth become a training ground also for those who will take their Christian faith into the secular world? America needs many more dedicated Christians in its government and industry as well as in church and social projects if the country is to rid itself of the corruption which you all so much deplore.

It would be a wonderful thing, too, if the National Conference could win the backing and financial support of the whole church for a much wider in-

ational exchange of youth than is
ible at the moment. Young people
merica can never comprehend un-
they see for themselves the dif-
ance between their standard of liv-
and those in Europe—to say noth-
of the very much greater contrasts
Asia.

merica has been called to a place
adership in the world which brings
a it great opportunities and re-
nsibilities. Methodist youth, with
r training in organization and lead-
hip, could play a mighty part if
y could first travel and learn for
mselves about the conditions in
er parts of the world.

—IVA WALLIS MILDON

After discussion--action

NCMY learns on the job

to vote for it is one thing; to go
and do it is another.

When it comes to Christian Witness
missions, the National Conference of
Methodist Youth decided to do both. In
their Kansas City meeting the confer-
ence MYF and state MSM delegates
decided to urge every MYF and MSM
group to participate in the Christian
Witness program. Then got up from
their business meetings and spent the
weekend in a Christian Witness Mission
themselves.

Working in teams with local youth
from Kansas City, Mo., Kansas City,
Miss., St. Joseph, Mo., and Topeka,
Miss., they went into homes in 20
church communities and invited people
to take a stand for Christ and come
to the fellowship of the church.

A lot of preparation had gone into
this weekend venture. Under the direc-
tion of Dr. Lewis Carpenter, president
of the National College for Christian
Workers in Kansas City, the pastors
of the youth of participating churches
lined up the persons in their com-
munities who might be prospects, had
arranged for transportation, housing
meals for the visiting teams, and
planned a schedule for the weekend
that brought entire MYF groups into
these activities.

Introducing---

Much welcomed guests at the
Kansas City meeting of the National
Conference were Mr. and Mrs. Ar-
thur Mildon of London, England,
who have spent this summer tour-
ing America. Arthur is the son of
a British Methodist minister and is
a Methodist lay preacher himself.
He is a lawyer. Iva Wallis Mildon is
editor of "Young Britain," youth
supplement of *The Methodist Re-
corder*. CONCERN asked the Mildons
for their impressions of the NCMY
meeting and got this story.

In general the schedule ran some-
thing like this:

Friday afternoon—training sessions at
the National Conference center.

Friday evening—supper at National
College, visitation evangelism in
local church communities, report
and evaluation session back at the
college.

Saturday—visitation work all day in
the church communities, and even-
ing fellowship hour in each church
with the entire MYF group review-
ing the purposes and goals for the
MYF.

Sunday—MYF church school classes
which tested themselves with an
"evangelistic potential" scorecard
(21 August CONCERN) to see where
their program needed improvement,
then morning church services, more
visiting in the afternoon, an even-
ing MYF meeting with emphasis on
commitment, and the closing shar-
ing and worship session at the con-
ference center.

"Our MYF experienced a rebirth this
weekend," youth from one of the
churches said in the closing period. "It
opened our eyes to the possibilities of
winning others to Christ," they all
agreed.

And the National Conference mem-
bers who participated headed for their
home conferences with a good idea of
how to have a Christian Witness Mis-
sion. It isn't just a conference recom-
mendation to them now. They did it
themselves.

National Conference council for 1953-54

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Willetta Moore
Philander Smith College
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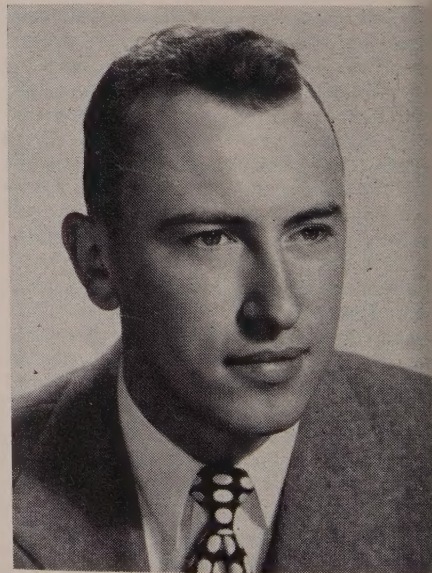
Entire NCMY staff changes this year

One of the biggest news items to come out of the National Conference meeting is the announcement that both projects secretaries of the NCMY are resigning during the year.

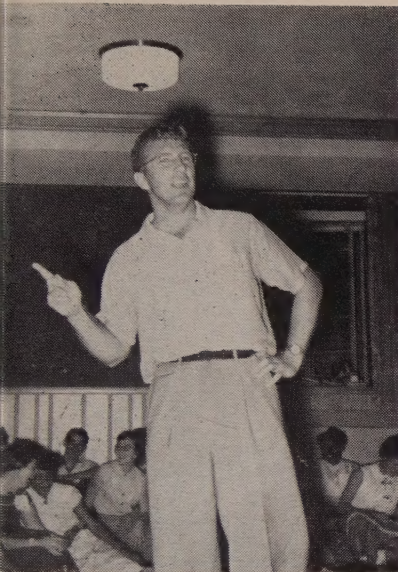
Roger Burgess, editor of CONCERN since 1950, has already gone to Washington, D. C. to work on the staff of the Board of Temperance in the Methodist Building, 100 Maryland Ave., N. E. The National Conference elected James Jones to serve in that place this year.

George Harper, senior projects secretary, announced his resignation to take effect next June. He was re-elected for his eighth year and will serve until June. A special committee is discussing possible successors to Harper, and the National Conference council will probably elect someone at its mid-winter meeting.

Leaves Concern



At the Kansas City meeting Roger Burgess officially ended his work on the staff of the National Conference of Methodist Youth. After three years of editing CONCERN, he moves to a new editorial job with the Methodist Board of Temperance, Washington, D. C.



Everything Harper did was not as obvious as his report to the NCMY which is concluded on this page. Delees will remember some of the lighter moments," like this evening township hour version of the "Grand Opry."

(Continued from Page 2)

ith aware that there is no Christian township group, except as there is a younger fellowship of persons whose one desire is to know and to do God's will . . .

POWER should be pushed with the idea of its becoming the organ through which the fellowship shares its discoveries in devotional life. Each of us should think of POWER as that channel of expression for ourselves, and so should contribute material for its uses . . .

spiritual life retreats should be held at every conference and student movement . . .

On every level, our council meetings should be held with the idea in mind that the council is a group of youth and adult leaders seeking to find God's will for the group. Plans and program should be born in prayer . . .

We must lead out in a new study of us that is concluded only in action meeting situations in His Spirit.

This is the only answer we have. We must not have any of our own. His life—our philosophy — challenges the world. We must help point out the use

of study materials we have for this purpose. After careful study and use of our available materials, we may be able to make constructive suggestions as to additional or substitute study materials that are needed . . .

We must know Him to follow Him, and to know Him we must study Him until we become saturated with His life and teachings . . .

We must be evangelistic witnesses for Christ.

. . . In our Christian Witness Missions of several types, youth have been taught how to share the evangel of Christ in various ways now known to be effective in our society. There is no limit to the number of these missions that should be held; the program can grow to include hundreds of thousands of Christian youth. Since this is the basic work of the church, it is not something we can overdo.

We must help create a dramatic drive for world peace and friendship among all people.

. . . CONCERN can be the organ that will weld the youth of our church together, that will inform them of issues and news, and that will challenge them to constructive Christian action.

. . . It is imperative that the MYFund and MSFFund be greatly increased. Our hearts are where our money is.

. . . meanwhile, a big problem currently posed by our world of war and war preparation must be whipped: what will we do to keep our young men and women of the Armed Services in the fellowship and life of the church?

We must get each member involved in some volunteer service project in the name of Christ.

The jobs are simple and plentiful. Any group that is interested can map out dozens in their community . . . The idea does not need to be complicated or difficult. We simply ought to work in volunteer service to others.

. . . One question only our groups must have: "What is God's will?"

Our only regard must be to do that will. We must be willing to try and fail, not conscious of strategy and success, but God-conscious and spirit-led."

George Harper

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